

UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

June 29, 2011

The United States Mission to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honor to convey the following objections to Pakistan's reservations to the Convention Against Torture (CAT).

The Government of the United States of America objects to Pakistan's reservations to the CAT. Pakistan has reserved to Articles 3, 4, 6, 12, 13, and 16 of the Convention, which address non-refoulement, criminalization of acts which constitute torture, arrest or apprehension of those suspected of committing torture, investigation of credible allegations of torture, the right to bring before and have examined by competent authorities allegations of torture and for protection of complainants and witnesses, and the prevention of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. At the same time, Pakistan has chosen not to participate in the Committee's inquiry process under Article 20. The combination of Pakistan's reservations and its decision not to participate in the Article 20 process raises serious concerns because the reservations obscure the extent to which Pakistan intends to modify its substantive obligations under the Convention, and

preclude further inquiry by the Committee if well-founded indications of systematic torture do arise. As a result, the United States considers the totality of Pakistan's reservations to Articles 3, 4, 6, 12, 13, and 16 to be incompatible with the object and purpose of the Covenant. This objection does not constitute an obstacle to the entry into force of the Covenant between the United States and Pakistan, and the aforementioned articles shall apply between our two states, except to the extent of Pakistan's reservations.

The United States Mission to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General the assurances of its highest consideration.

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